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OP IMMED

Q 150601Z MAR 73 ZFF1  
FM VIENTIANE

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T 150601Z MAR 1973

FROM: AMBASSADOR GODLEY VIENTIANE 747  
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. KISSINGER - IMMEDIATE  
REF: WH 30735

1. READ TO PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING REFTEL. HE WAS ALREADY NODDING IN ASSENT WHEN I READ PARAGRAPH THREE SO THE ONLY PORTION I OMITTED WERE THE WORDS "ALTHOUGH" THROUGH "CONSENT" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA FOUR. WHEN I GOT TO THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA FOUR HE SHOOK HIS HEAD MILDLY BUT AT THE END OF PARA FIVE HE NODDED IN ASSENT AND INTERRUPTED ME TO SAY THAT THE POSITION SET FORTH IN PARA FIVE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS VIEW. AFTER FINISHING PARA SIX I REITERATED THAT WE WOULD HOPE HE WOULD INDICATE HIS AGREEMENT WITH OUR ACTION RATHER THAN MERE ACQUIESCENCE. HE SAID HE WOULD PUBLICLY INDICATE HIS AGREEMENT.

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2. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD COUNT ON HIS PUBLIC AGREEMENT. THE LINE HE WILL PROBABLY TAKE IS THE POSITION HE ASSUMED AFTER LAM SON 719 WAS INITIATED, WHICH WAS MORE OR LESS A PLAGUE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO WERE THE FIRST TO OCCUPY THIS LAO TERRITORY.

3. I DID NOT HAVE AVAILABLE TO ME THE RECENT IMPRESSIVE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE USE OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL. I HAD, HOWEVER, MENTIONED TO HIM IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS THE INFORMATION WE HAD ON THE ENEMY'S INCREASED TRANSIENT ACTIVITY. IT WAS THEREFORE NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO BELABOR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, BUT I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS GETTING SOME RECENT PHOTOGRAPHY AND WOULD SHOW IT TO HIM.

4. GENERAL VOGT HAS BEEN KEEPING ME INFORMED IN BROAD TERMS OF HIS CONTINGENCY PLANNING. I SHALL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM BY SECURE MEANS TO ASSURE THAT THERE IS NO HITCH ON TECHNICAL VALIDATION PROBLEMS SHOULD YOU EXECUTE YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS AGAINST THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL.

5. ALL THE BEST, AS EVER

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

HAK, SCOWCROFT, HOWE, LORD

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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GODLEY

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